UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/25181
28 January 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 27 JANUARY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a facsimile letter from His Excellency Mr. Levon Ter-Petrossian, President of the Republic of Armenia, dated 27 January 1993, requesting an urgent meeting of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alexander ARZOUMANIAN
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative

93-05897 3764h (E) 280193 28/01/93

/...

Annex

Letter dated 27 January 1993 from the President of the Republic of Armenia addressed to the President of the Security Council

I hereby respectfully request an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council to address the state of emergency in the Republic of Armenia and ways to bring an end to the crisis.

On 7 December 1992, I declared the whole territory of the Republic of Armenia a disaster area, as the effects of an unusually harsh winter combined with the blockade of Armenia had brought the country's economy and infrastructure to near collapse. Thousands of people faced death from starvation and exposure to the elements.

Until the imposition of this blockade, 85 per cent of all goods and materials entering Armenia, including 80 per cent of its natural gas, was transported through Azerbaijan. Beginning in 1989, Azerbaijan imposed an expanding and increasingly effective blockade of all materials entering Armenia. Armenia's northern neighbour, Georgia, has suffered from internal strife, affecting drastically its ability to provide an alternative.

The devastating effects of the blockade have been witnessed by journalists, international relief workers, representatives of foreign Governments as well as United Nations missions visiting Armenia. In particular, two special envoys and a fact-finding team from the United Nations have documented the severity of the crisis.

But now the critical situation has turned into a catastrophe. In the early morning hours of 23 January, a section of the pipeline carrying natural gas - the last line carrying energy into Armenia - was blown up in a rural district of Georgia.

According to preliminary estimates, under the best of circumstances repairs will require 15 days. The total lack of energy resulting from this development has serious consequences not only for Armenia but also for the region.

In Armenia, the Government has been compelled to curtail severely or to shut down completely transportation; industrial and agricultural production, including bread bakeries; utilities; and social services, such as hospitals, especially needed by the poor, the children, the inhabitants of the disaster zone, and the refugees.

The crisis will affect thermal power stations so severely that it may take up to eight weeks before they could be reset. In addition, the lack of energy makes the proper maintenance of the nuclear power station of Armenia at Medzamor - shut down since 1989 - extremely difficult and presents a hazard to the people of Armenia and of neighbouring countries.

The Republic of Armenia respectfully requests an urgent meeting of the Security Council to focus on the crisis in Armenia brought in large part by the blockade of Azerbaijan. If this blockade is not lifted, we are certain that the results will be catastrophic not only for Armenia but also for the entire region. We therefore appeal to the Security Council to urge the Republic of Azerbaijan to lift immediately the blockade on Armenia, to open humanitarian corridors, at the minimum to allow the transport of fuel. In the event that Azerbaijan is unwilling to comply with this request, we would urge that the Security Council consider imposing sanctions on Azerbaijan.

It is clear that the imposition of blockades by the Republic of Azerbaijan is a flagrant breach of international law, which stipulates safe passage of transit goods to and from land-locked countries.

(Signed) Levon TER-PETROSSIAN